

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/002,406

Examiner

Sharon Kennedy

Applicant(s)

AITA ET AL.

Art Unit

3762

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment of August 24, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-17.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 March 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with November 10, 2004 on Edward Lynch.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Claims 1, 15 and 16 have been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A polymeric balloon having a wall with an interior surface defining at least in part an internal chamber and a plurality of longitudinally oriented, coextensive and spaced apart layers of remotely imageable materials on the interior balloon surface or within a portion of the balloon wall which are configured to facilitate articulation between adjacent spaced apart layers and preferential longitudinal folding of the balloon.

15. (Currently Amended): A balloon catheter assembly for stent delivery comprising

a) a catheter shaft having at least one lumen;

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b) a polymeric balloon which is disposed about and secured to a distal portion of the catheter shaft, which has a wall with an interior surface defining at least in part an internal chamber and which has a plurality of longitudinally oriented, coextensive and spaced apart layers of remotely imageable materials on the interior balloon surface or within a portion of the balloon wall which are configured to facilitate articulation between adjacent spaced apart layers and preferential longitudinal folding of the balloon; and

c) a stent having a proximal end and a distal end disposed about the balloon.

16. (Currently Amended): A balloon catheter comprising

a) a catheter shaft having at least one lumen; and

b) a polymeric balloon which is disposed about and secured to a distal portion of the catheter shaft and which includes a working section having at least two adjacent wall segments with each segment having longitudinally oriented, coextensive and spaced apart remotely imageable layers which are configured to facilitate articulation between adjacent spaced apart layers and preferential longitudinal folding of the balloon.

Remarks

The amendment is necessary to more clearly point out that "articulation" is not mere random folding and distinguishes over Becker '568. "Articulation" as defined by a dictionary means movement along a joint, which is not a random event.

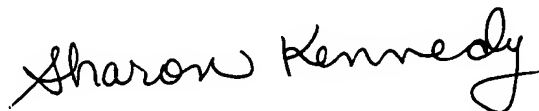
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Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sharon Kennedy whose telephone number is 571/272-4948. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes can be reached on 571/272-4955.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Sharon Kennedy
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3762

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